

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): A method of preventing or treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering an effective amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 8 (Original): A method of promoting the production of a neurotrophic factor, which comprises administering an effective amount of N-acetyl-L-pipecolic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 9 (New): The method of claim 7, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, spinal injury, Huntington's disease, cerebral infarction, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or diabetic or drug-induced peripheral neuropathy or retinal neuropathy.

Claim 10 (New): The method of claim 8, wherein said neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin.